—Intensive health education campaign undertaken on personal hygiene and environmental sanitation as well as for use of chlorine tablets and Oral Rehydration Salt (O.R.S.).

—Garbage heaps are being removed regularly and sewerlines/drains/pipes nallahs etc. maintained carefully.

—Official ban on sale of cut fruits is being implemented strictly.

Mass Copying in the CBSE Examinations

147. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was unprecedented mass copying in the examinations conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education recently in which the invigilation staff was also involved;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what action has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to check such incidents in future and to ensure holding of the examinations properly?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) There was considerable mass copying in the 1991 examinations conducted by the CBSE in Delhi particularly at 20 examination centres where widespread use of unfair means was established. 107 candidates of the Senior Secondary Class and 6124 candidates of the Secondary Class were appearing in the examinations at those centres.

(c) The Government advised the Board to take stern measures including cancellation of examinations wherever required. Thereafter, the Board cancelled examinations at 20 examination centres at Delhi and conducted re-examination at those centres. The Board has also appointed an Enquiry Commission to go into the matter.

(d) In order to minimise the use of unfair means in examinations, both preventive and punitive measures are required. Preventive measures are primarily in the area of Examination. Reforms like continuous internal evaluation, mix of internal and external evaluation and giving credits for non-scholastic achievements so as to reduce the essentiality of good performance only in the final examinations. The Government has advised CBSE to strengthen the existing examination machinery and to enlist the active cooperation of law enforcement agencies of the States and the Union Territories with a view to ensure smooth conduct of examinations.

Literacy rate

148. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the States which, according to the provisional census 1991 have the lowest percentage of literacy stating the literacy rate in each of these States;

(b) by what percentage the projected rate of literacy in these States has fallen short;

(c) whether Government propose external funding for basic education in the country to achieve the goal of education for all;

(d) if so, the external organisations from which funds would be forthcoming stating the amount of assistance in each case; and

(e) what are the specific education projects for which the grants are proposed to be utilised?